

### **IVLP Project: Parks, Biodiversity and Ecotourism Management**

**TEXT:** Each year, the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) brings over 4,000 foreign visitors from all over the world to the United States to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience the U.S. firsthand.

**TEXT:** In 2009, 21 visitors were selected to travel to the United States to participate in a project on “Parks, Biodiversity, and Ecotourism Management.”

**TEXT:** Over 3 weeks, this IVLP group visited: Washington, DC; Miami, FL; Denver, CO

**TEXT:** The IVLP participants split into smaller groups to visit: Sante Fe, NM; Rapid City, SD; El Paso, TX

**MS. MUNIRA ANYONGE** (Senior Warden, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)): What I would say for me, it’s quite rewarding, meeting all the participants from the different countries, being able...for the past five days I’ve been able to exchange ideas, and I think when I go back this is going to help me because I’m just coming up with strategies for my new department.

**MR. KHALIFA AL JAHWARI** (Senior Conservation Specialist, Office of Conservation of the Environment, Diwan Royal Court, Oman): People I meet and the international visitors who come to this program are really helping me to understand how things are occurring out in different parts of the world.

**MS. NADYA ALENCASTRO LARIOS** (Chief, Department of Quality Air Policies, Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Mexico City): For me, professionally, I’m interacting with my fellow participants and getting a lot of different ideas that when I go back to my country, I’m going to try to do this. The solution is not in one country. Because we are living in the same air. We have to do things thinking in all the planet.

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**TEXT:** For more information about the International Visitor leadership Program, please visit: <http://exchanges.state.gov/ivlp>